

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner's allowance of claims 13-19, 21, 38-41 and 43 and indication that claims 28, 33-34, 36, 47 and 54 contain allowable subject matter is acknowledged.

Claims 28, 33-34, 36, 47 and 54 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 28 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. As claim 29 depends on claim 28, it too is allowable.

Claim 33 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. As claim 34 depends on claim 33, it too is allowable.

Claim 36 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. As claim 37 depends on claim 36, it too is allowable.

Claim 47 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. As claim 49 depends on claim 47, it too is allowable.

Claim 54 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable.

Claims 50-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,488,099 to McSheffrey et al.

Claim 50, as amended, recites a system for remotely monitoring the status of multiple fire extinguishers, the system comprising sensors configured to sense removal, or tampering, of trigger pins of respective fire extinguishers; wireless transmitters coupled to respective sensors and configured to selectively transmit whether the trigger pin of the respective fire extinguisher has been removed or tampered with, the wireless transmitters being defined by respective radio frequency identification devices that respectively include a transmitter, and a processor coupled to the transmitter; and a receiver configured to selectively receive the transmissions for the multiple fire extinguishers at a common location, the receiver being defined by an interrogator, and the radio frequency identification devices being configured to selectively identify themselves to the interrogator in response to an interrogation signal from the interrogator.

The McSheffrey et al. reference fails to disclose sensors configured to sense removal, or tampering, of trigger pins of respective fire extinguishers, and wireless transmitters coupled to respective sensors and configured to selectively transmit whether the trigger pin of the respective fire extinguisher has been

removed or tampered with, the wireless transmitters being defined by respective radio frequency identification devices that respectively include a transmitter, in combination with the other limitations of claim 50.

Therefore, claim 50 is allowable.

As claims 51-53 depend on claim 50, they too are allowable.

Claims 22-27, 29-32, 35 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,488,099 to McSheffrey et al.

Claim 22, as amended, recites a system for remotely monitoring the status of a fire extinguisher, the fire extinguisher having a trigger and a trigger pin arranged such that the trigger pin must be removed before the trigger can be operated, the system comprising a tamper-indicating device including a tamper-responsive section and a tamper-signaling section, the tamper-responsive section defining a damage-sensitive portion between first and second coupling portions, the damage sensitive portion being in either an intact and a non-intact condition, the first coupling portion being adapted to be coupled to the trigger pin and the second coupling portion being adapted to be coupled external of the trigger pin of the fire extinguisher, the tamper-signaling section being configured to selectively transmit information indicating whether the damage sensitive portion is in the intact or non-intact condition, and the tamper-signaling section including a radio frequency identification device that includes a transmitter, and

a processor coupled to the transmitter, and that is configured to selectively identify itself.

The McSheffrey et al. reference fails to disclose a tamper-indicating device including a tamper-responsive section and a tamper-signaling section, the tamper-responsive section defining a damage-sensitive portion between first and second coupling portions, the first coupling portion being adapted to be coupled to the trigger pin and the second coupling portion being adapted to be coupled external of the trigger pin of the fire extinguisher, and the tamper-signaling section including a radio frequency identification device that includes a transmitter, and a processor coupled to the transmitter, and that is configured to selectively identify itself in combination with the other limitations of claim 22.

Therefore, claim 22 is allowable.

As claims 23-27 depend on claim 22, they too are allowable.

Claim 30, as amended, recites a system for remotely monitoring if a fire extinguisher is moved, the system comprising an RF tamper-indicating device including a tamper-responsive section and a transmitting section, the tamper-responsive section defining a damage-sensitive portion between first and second coupling portions, the damage sensitive portion being in either an intact and a non-intact condition, the first coupling portion being adapted to be coupled to the fire extinguisher and the second coupling portion being adapted to be fixed to a surface external of the fire extinguisher, the tamper-signaling section being

configured to selectively transmit information indicating whether the damage sensitive portion is in the intact or non-intact condition, the tamper-signaling section including a radio frequency identification device that includes a transmitter, and a processor coupled to the transmitter, and that is configured to selectively identify itself.

The McSheffrey et al. reference fails to disclose an RF tamper-indicating device including a tamper-responsive section and a transmitting section, the tamper-responsive section defining a damage-sensitive portion between first and second coupling portions, the damage sensitive portion being in either an intact and a non-intact condition, the first coupling portion being adapted to be coupled to the fire extinguisher and the second coupling portion being adapted to be fixed to a surface external of the fire extinguisher, the tamper-signaling section being configured to selectively transmit information indicating whether the damage sensitive portion is in the intact or non-intact condition, the tamper-signaling section including a radio frequency identification device that includes a transmitter, and a processor coupled to the transmitter, and that is configured to selectively identify itself.

Therefore, claim 30 is allowable.

As claims 31-32 and 35 depend on claim 30, they too are allowable.

Claims 44-46, 48 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,488,099 to McSheffrey et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,774,782 to Runyon et al.

Claim 44, as amended, recites a system for remotely monitoring the status of multiple fire extinguishers, the system comprising transceivers configured to be associated with respective fire extinguishers, with at least some of the transceivers including a frangible wire configured to break and cause an alarm signal in response to a fire extinguisher being moved, and with at least some of the transceivers configured to cause an alarm signal in response to extinguisher pressure below a predetermined threshold, the transceivers being configured to store and selectively transmit information identifying the fire extinguisher with which the transceiver is associated; an interrogator in selective wireless communication with the transceivers; and a computer coupled to the interrogator, the computer being configured to maintain inspection, testing, or maintenance schedules for respective fire extinguishers and being configured to provide an output when it is time for an extinguisher to be inspected, tested, or undergo maintenance, the computer also being configured to provide an output in response to an alarm signal being generated, the transceivers being defined using radio frequency identification devices that respectively include a transceiver, and a processor coupled to the transceiver, and that are configured to identify themselves to the computer.

Appl. No. 10/669,669
Response to 12/20/05 Final Office Action (RCE)
Atty. Dkt. BA4-198 (12839-E CIP)

The McSheffrey et al. reference fails to disclose transceivers configured to be associated with respective fire extinguishers, with at least some of the transceivers including a frangible wire configured to break and cause an alarm signal in response to a fire extinguisher being moved, wherein the transceivers are defined using radio frequency identification devices that respectively include a transceiver, and a processor coupled to the transceiver, and that are configured to identify themselves to the computer, in combination with the other limitations of claim 44.

Therefore, claim 44 is allowable.

As claims 45-46 depend on claim 44, they too are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 22-37, 44-47, and 49-54, in addition to the previous allowance of claims 13-19, 21, 38-41 and 43, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance, are requested. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time if such would facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Feb. 22, 2006

By:


Deepak Malhotra
Reg. No. 33,560